This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

42. (New) A controller for enabling audio files to be played on a computer subsystem of a computer system when said computer system is in an inactive state, said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state and a second state, said switch in said first state decoupling said controller from said computer subsystem, said switch in said second state coupling said controller to said computer subsystem in response to said computer system being in said inactive state; and

a drive interface configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, said drive interface configured to access audio data on said drive when said switch is in said second state.

43. (New) The controller of claim 42, wherein said audio data comprises compressed audio data and wherein said controller further comprises decoder circuitry configured to receive said compressed audio data and output decompressed audio data.

44. (New) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuit further comprises a buffer memory for temporary storage of said decompressed audio data.

45. (New) The controller of claim 44, wherein said buffer memory comprises a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

46. (New) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry further comprises a digital to analog circuit to receive said decompressed audio data and to generate an analog audio signal.

47. (New) The controller of claim 43, wherein said decoder circuitry further comprises an interface circuit to interface said decompressed audio data with an external digital to analog converter.

48. (New) The controller of claim 42, further comprising an LCD interface to generate signals to an LCD display for displaying directory data associated with said drive.

49. (New) The controller of claim 42, further comprising a function key interface responsive to a plurality of function keys, said function keys generating user commands to said controller through said function key interface.

50. (New) The controller of claim 42, further comprising a processor for controlling said state of said switch.

51. (New) The controller of claim 43, further comprising a processor for controlling said state of said switch and for controlling said decoder circuitry.

52. (New) The controller of claim 51, further comprising flash memory for storing data and commands for use by said processor for controlling said decoder circuitry.

53. (New) The controller of claim 42, wherein said audio data comprises non-compressed audio data.

54. (New) A controller for enabling audio files to be played on a computer subsystem of a computer system when said computer system is in an inactive state, said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state and a second state, said switch in said first state decoupling said controller from said computer subsystem, said switch in said second state coupling said controller to said computer subsystem in response to said computer system being in said inactive state;

a drive interface configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, said drive interface configured to access compressed audio data on said drive when said switch is in said second state; and

decoder circuitry configured to receive said compressed audio data and output decompressed audio data.

55. (New) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuit further comprises a buffer memory for temporary storage of said decompressed audio data.

56. (New) The controller of claim 55, wherein said buffer memory comprises a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory.

57. (New) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry further comprises a digital to analog circuit to receive said decompressed audio data and to generate an analog audio signal.

58. (New) The controller of claim 54, wherein said decoder circuitry further comprises an interface circuit to interface said decompressed audio data with an external digital to analog converter.

59. (New) A method of playing audio files in a computer system having a computer subsystem, said method comprising:

detecting when said computer system is in an inactive state; and

coupling an audio controller to said computer subsystem when said computer system is in said inactive state, said audio controller configured to control access and playing of said audio files on said computer subsystem.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising

detecting when said computer system is in an active state; and

decoupling said audio controller from said computer subsystem when said computer system is in said active state.